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Message Text

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70
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

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R 261545Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6147
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10330

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PAOLO SARTORI AND LUIGI SIRONI

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN A LONG CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, PAOLO SARTORI AND LUIGI SIRONI, PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE CISL MINORITY, STRESSED THE DETERMINATION OF THE CISL MINORITY TO SECEDE FROM CISL IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER AND FORM A NEW LABOR FEDERATION. THIS PLAN IS PROMPTED BY THE REALIZATION THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETER CISL FROM WITHIN FROM ITS PATH OF UNITY WITH THE CGIL AND BY THE JUDGMENT THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR CREATING A MAJOR NEW FEDERATION. THE MINORITY EXPECTS TO BE JOINED BY A NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT UNIONS AND, IN TIME, BY ELEMENTS OF UIL. THE SOURCES STATE THAT THE DC, AND IN PARTICULAR, PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI, SUPPORTS THIS PLAN. THE NEW FEDERATION EXPECTS TO BEGIN WITH ABOUT 8000,000 MEMBERS. END SUMMARY

2. THE CISL MINORITY IS DETERMINED TO SECEDE FROM CISL IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER, WHENEVER THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) HOLDS ITS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THIS FACT WAS STRESSED BY SARTORI AND SIRONI IN
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A LONG CONVERSATION ON JULY 24 WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND TWO EMBASSY

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OFFICERS. THE OCCASION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN CHOSEN
FOR THE SECESSION BECAUSE THE ASSEMBLY IS BEING CALLED, IN LARGE
MEASURE, TO ACCELERATE PLANS FOR LABOR UNITY. A PARTICULARLY
NEFARIOUS EXAMPLE OF THESE PLANS IS THE INTENTION TO ISSUE UNION
CARDS WHICH WOULD MAKE WORKERS PRIMARILY MEMBERS OF THE CCU, AND
ONLY SECONDARILY MEMBERS OF THE INDIVIDUAL UNION OF HIS CHOICE.

3. THE MINORITY EXPECTS TO ATTRACT PERHAPS 800,000 MEMBERS AT THE
OUTSET, BUT HAVE HIGH HOPES OF WINNING MANY ADDITIONAL FOLLOWERS
AFTER THE NEW FEDERATION GETS OFF THE GROUND. IN THIS CONNECTION
SIRONI INDICATED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SYMPATHETIC
UIL OFFICIALS WHO, HOWEVER, STILL CLING TO THE HOPE OF BRINGING
UIL SECRETARY GENERAL VANNI ALONG. NEVERTHELESS THEY EXPECT THAT
SOONER OR LATER THERE WILL ALSO
BE SUBSTANTIAL ACCESSIONS TO THE NEW FEDERATION'S
RANKS FROM THE UIL. IN ADDITION, THE CISL MINORITY IS BANKING
HEAVILY ON BEING JOINED BY MANY STRONG INDEPENDENT UNIONS, SUCH AS
THOSE IN BANKING, HOSPITAL WORKERS, ETC. THE CISL MINORITY MUST
ACT NOW, THEY EMPAHSIZED, BECAUSE TIME WAS RUNNING OUT FOR SAVING FREE

TRADE UNIONISM IN ITALY.

4. SARTORI REITERATED HIS PREVIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT VITO SCALIA AS
LEADER OF THE CISL MINORITY FORCES (SEE A-477). NEVERTHELESS TIME
IS MUCH TOO SHORT TO THING OF ANY CHANGE OF LEADER AND THEREFORE
THE SECESSION WILL BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER SCALIA'S LEADERSHIP.

5. DC PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI SUPPORTS THE CISL MINORITY'S PLANS,
THEY SAID.
FANFANI'S DISAPPROVAL OF CISL SECRETARY GENERAL STORTI AND THE
TRENDS IN CISL HAS CRYSTALLIZED SINCE THE DIVORCE REFERENDUM WHEN
STORTI AND OTHERS IN THE CISL MINORITY, FAR FROM SUPPORTING THE
DC POSITION, ACTUALLY WORKED IN OPEN OPPOSITION TO IT. BOTH THE
PSDI AND PRI ARE ALSO SYMPATHETIC TO THIS SECESSION PLAN, THEY
SAID, THOUGH SOME (E.G. LA MALFA) ARE MORE IN FAVOR ON IMMEDIATE
ACTION THAN OTHERS. IN ANY EVENT, THE CISL MINORITY IS DETERMINED
THAT THE NEW FEDERATION WILL BE NON-CONFESSIONAL, NON-FACTIONAL,
BUT SOLELY DEMOCRATIC AND BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE TRADE
UNIONISM.

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6. SIRONI, WHO DID MOST OF THE TALKING, WAS TOTALLY
OUTSPOKEN IN SAYING THAT STORTI WAS ABSOLUTELY BEYOND RECOVERY, THAT
HE WAS BENT ON DELIVERING THE CISL INTO THE ARMS OF LAMA AND THE
COMMUNISTS. THEREFORE, THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY VIABLE POSSIBILITY
OF WORKING TO SALVAGE CISL FROM WITHIN THE SECESSION WAS NECESSARY.
(THOUGH SILENT, SARTORI PRESUMABLY ASSENTED TO THIS ESTIMATE.)
IT WAS NOTED THAT STORTI, DURING THE RECENT CCU DELIBERATIONS RE-
GARDING WHETHER OR NOT TO CALL A GENERAL STRIKE IN PROTEST AGAINST

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THE GOVERNMNET'S AUSTERITY MEASURES, HAD SIDED ON OCCASION WITH
THE CISL MINORITY AND WAS REPORTED TO BE IN OPPOSITION TO CALLING
A GENERAL STRIKE; SIRONI RESPONDED BY SAYING THIS WAS SHEER
TACTICS ON THE PART OF STORTI. HE SAID IT WAS PASSING STRANGE
THAT STORTI TOOK THIS POSITION TWO DAYS BEFORE THE DC NATIONAL
COUNCIL, AND THAT FURTHERMORE HIS ALLEGED OPPOSITION TO THE GENERAL
STRIKE BECAME KNOWN TO THE PRESS EVEN THOUGH THE PRESS HAD BEEN
EXCLUDED FROM THE CCU DELIBERATIONS. IN SHORT, SIRONI SAID,
STORTI HAD PLANTED THIS STORY IN ORDER TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE
DC, TO SHOW HE WAS STILL A GOOD BOY, WHEREAS HE WAS A CAPTIVE OF
THE CGIL AND LAMA.

7. THE CONVERSATION BRIEFLY AND OBLIQUELY TOUCHED ON FINANCIAL
ASPECTS OF THE SECESSION PLAN. SIRONI NOTED THAT CISL HAS
RECEIVED NO AMERICAN MONEY SINCE 1971. HE RECALLED STORTI ANNOUNC-
ING IN A GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING IN 1971 THAT, " WE ARE NOW AUTON-
OMOUS." HE
EXPRESSED REGRETS OVER THE AFL-CIO'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ICFTU
WHICH HAD WORSUED MATTERS IN ITALY AND EUROPE. SIRONI WENT ON
TO SAY THAT WITH ALL DUE RESPECT THE LARGE SUMS BEING SPENT BY
THE AFL-CIO IN TRADE UNION PROGRAMS IN AFRICA ARE BEING MIS-
DIRECTED. THE AFRICAN NATIONS ARE COUNTRIES OF THE FUTURE; ITALY
WAS VITAL HERE AND NOW. ITALY WAS IMPORTANT TO THE US POLITICALLY,
ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY, SIRONI STRESSED. (THE INFERENCE
WAS THAT THE MONEY WHICH IS BEING CURRENTLY SPENT ON AFRICA OUGHT TO BE

REDIRECTED TO ASSISTING THE CISL MINORITY IN ITS PLAN TO SECEDE.)

8. COMMENT: THIS CONVERSATION, COUPLED WITH A NUMBER OF OTHERS
THE EMBASSY HAS HAD RECENTLY WITH MEMBERS OF THE CISL
MINORITY, CONVINCES US THAT THE PLANS TO SECEDE FROM THE CISL
WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED FOR MANY MONTHS, ARE NOW TRULY BEING
MADE IN EARNEST. AS IN ALL CASES OF THIS SORT, THE CISL
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MINORITY WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME IN GETTING ESTABLISHED. THEY
WILL REQUIRE STRONG POLITICAL BACKING IF THEY ARE TO STAND A
CHANCE OF GETTING ANYTHING LIKE 800,000 MEMBERS, AND WE WILL BE
RPOBING THE EXTENT OF THAT BACKING. THOUGH OUR SYMPATHIES
NATURALLY LIE WITH THE CISL MINORITY, I AM CONVINCED USG MUST
MAINTAIN A POSTURE OF NON-INVOLVEMENT BOTH BECAUSE SUCH INVOLVEMENT
COULD PROVE TO BE A BURDEN FOR THE NEW ORGANIZATION
AND BECAUSE WE MUST NOT BURN OUR BRIDGES TO CISL AND UIL WHICH WILL
CONTINUE TO BE MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE MEMBERS WILL BE NON-
COMMUNIST DESPITE THE POLICIES OF THEIR LEADERS. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, LABOR UNIONS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME10330
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740203-1103
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740714/aaaaalqi.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH PAOLO SARTORI AND LUIGI SIRONI
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT, CISL, (SARTORI, PAOLO), (SIRONI, LUIGI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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